

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 NEA-10 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OMB-01 RSR-01

/118 W

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O P 070535Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7116

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 2391

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, SEATO

SUBJECT: SEATO: GVN INVITATION TO ATTEND SEATO COUNCIL MEETING

FOR ACTING ASST SECRETARY HUMMEL EA

REF: STATE 177178

1. POLOFF VANDIVIER CALLED ON SECRETARY MFA CORNER
UPON RECEIPT REFTEL AND LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE ENCOMPASSING
SUBSTANCE PARA 2, WITH REQUEST FOR EARLY INDICATION
GNZ REACTION.

2. CORNER HAD JUST RECEIVED LLOYD WHITE'S REPORT OF
HIS MEETING WITH ASST SEC HUMMEL AND SO WAS AWARE OF
OUR COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT YET HAD
AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OR
ANYONE ELSE. WHILE CORNER INDICATED THAT HE COULD NOT
OF COURSE SPEAK FOR PRIME MINISTER, HE SAID THAT OUR
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COMPROMISE IN HIS VIEW DOES NOT GET AT THE BASIC PROBLEM

FACING THE PRIME MINISTER. IT IS NOT SO MUCH WHAT PORTION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING GVN ATTENDS OR WHAT SORT OF INVITATION IS EXTENDED AS MUCH AS THE FACT THAT THE GVN WILL ATTEND AT ALL. WHILE KIRK AND THE GNZ RECOGNIZE THE POSSIBLE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON GVN, ATTENDANCE BY THE GVN WOULD HAVE A DEFINITE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON THE NEW ZEALAND PUBLIC. CORNER QUICKLY REVIEWED THE WELL KNOWN HISTORY OF PRIME MINISTER KIRK'S BASIC FEELINGS ABOUT SEATO AND THE PRESSURES WITHIN HIS PARTY FOR GNZ TO PULL OUT. KIRK WANTS THE SEATO DECKS CLEARED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO MEMBERS CAN GET ON WITH RESHAPING THE ORGANISATION IN A MANNER WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO NEW ZEALAND CRITICS OF SEATO. IF THIS IS NOT DONE QUICKLY, CORNER FEELS THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO PULL OUT OF THE ORGANIZATION. NOW THAT THE PEACE TREATY HAS BEEN SIGNED IT IS KIRK'S VIEW THAT THE GVN REVERTS TO THE STATUS OF A PROTOCOL STATE PROTECTED BY SEATO AND WHILE IT HAS ATTENDED COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE PAST, UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THERE IS NO VALID REASON IN GNZ EYES FOR GVN ATTENDANCE FROM THIS TIME FORWARD.

3. CORNER DID NOT FEEL THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO GET A DEFINITE REACTION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER BEFORE MONDAY, SEPT 10. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS GIVEN THIS MATTER A GREAT DEAL OF PERSONAL THOUGHT AND THAT THE REACTION TO OUR PROPOSAL IS LIKELY TO BE NEGATIVE. WOOD

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